



## Physical Therapist II

*Class Code: 7981*

*Date Established: 06-30-80*

*Date Revised: 09-13-05*

### **OVERVIEW:**

Under general supervision and upon physician referral, the Physical Therapist II assesses patient needs, develops a variety of short- and long-term treatment goals, and plans and implements the appropriate treatment program utilizing a variety of professional physical therapy procedures.

### **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

The Physical Therapist II is distinguished from the Physical Therapist I by the responsibility for the full scope of professional duties which include developing and administering a wide variety of diverse and complex therapy programs in addition to performing or supervising administrative duties such as scheduling; developing basic information for the budget; prepares reports; and on a regular basis, recording and supervising, three or more part-time relief aids or therapists. Most Student Health Centers have only one full-time therapist position which works independently in accordance with administrative and technical guidelines. The distinction between the Physical Therapist I and Physical Therapist II is primarily one of scope and level. Both classifications require the therapist to make independent decisions regarding selection of techniques to obtain optimum results from treatments administered and to be alert to patient crises requiring notification of a physician. Both perform clerical and related procedural administrative duties. The Physical Therapist II is characterized by the following factors:

1. The therapist orients, trains, leads and assists in the evaluation of three or more physical therapy aids, full-time, part-time or contract therapists, and interns.
2. The therapist serves as a member of the Health Center management team and represents the department on management planning issues at Student Health Center meetings. The therapist is responsible for recommending revisions of procedures for departmental scheduling, filing and equipment use, in order to increase effectiveness and productivity.
3. The therapist performs a wide variety of therapy treatments where maximum skill is required for assessment and evaluation of diverse therapy needs.

### **TYPICAL ACTIVITIES:**

Incumbents in this classification schedule, organize and conduct a physical therapy program designed to meet physician and client needs; perform initial evaluation and assessment of patient problems; plan treatment objectives and programs according to results of evaluation; administer standard diagnostic and prognostic examination of muscle, nerve, joint and functional ability; provide for implementation of proper treatment program and periodic re-evaluation of program; conduct actual treatment programs using various modalities; administer active, passive and resistive therapeutic exercises, local or general massage, muscle training and re-education, corrective exercises and neuromuscular coordination; design and construct, or direct construction of specialized testing and treatment equipment; explain treatment program and functional training using various devices and equipment; instruct patients in walking, standing, balance, use of crutches or cane and in the care of braces and artificial limbs; instruct patients regarding exercises which are to be continued at home and interpret to them the significance of physical therapy services; evaluate patient response and progress and discuss with the appropriate physician; evaluate and

test procedures; work with and advise physical education trainers for sport teams; record treatments given and maintain appropriate records; care for and maintain equipment and treatment rooms; keep inventory and requisition supplies used for therapy; supervise student assistants in physical therapy procedures, operation of equipment and patient care; and may be assigned some responsibility for orthopedic clinic activities related to patient appointments, follow-up and scheduling.

## **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

### ***Knowledge and Abilities:***

Comprehensive knowledge of the principles and methods of physical therapy including operation of therapeutic machines, such as ultraviolet, ultra-sound, infrared, diathermy, mechanical traction and electrical stimulation. Thorough knowledge of the physical effects resulting from various types of physical therapy treatments and skeletal anatomy and the basic pathology involved in diseases or injuries resulting in physical and mental handicaps. General knowledge of the construction and use of therapeutic appliances and equipment suitable for home construction and injuries encountered in athletic programs.

Ability to develop a therapy treatment program and administer various types of physical therapy treatments; teach the disabled the fundamentals of self-care and other suitable activities; interpret physical therapy treatments and teach others the treatments which must be continued at home; plan, organize and supervise the work of therapists, student assistants and others; plan and integrate departmental activities with other Health Center activities; compile or review and evaluate reports and case histories; analyze situations accurately and take prompt emergency action; communicate well with others; recognize and correct poor or unproductive methods of instruction; develop new or modify the type of treatment to meet the needs of patients; evaluate and test procedures; and develop manuals and procedural instructions for the therapy department.

### ***Experience:***

Equivalent to two years of progressively responsible professional physical therapy experience preferably including some experience with therapy related to fractures and muscle training and education and also in sports medicine and rehabilitation.

### ***Special Qualifications:***

Possession of a valid certificate as a registered physical therapist issued by the Board of Medical Examiners, State of California; or is eligible for such a license by reciprocity with a license from another state.